

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A lock (1) for a door of a motor vehicle comprising:

a closing mechanism (6) designed for coupling with a lock striker (2) along a direction (B) of relative coupling;

a supporting body (4) of said closing mechanism (6) having a housing seat (5) for an engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2); said housing seat (5) having an entry area (11) for said engagement portion (3) and being delimited:

laterally, by a pair of opposing side walls (13), and

at an end opposite to said entry area (11), by a bottom wall (12) orthogonal to said direction (B) of relative coupling;

an elastically compliant buffer (30) including a first end (31) coupled to said bottom wall (12) retaining said buffer (30) in said housing seat (5), and a second end (33) having a concave surface for receiving an impact from said engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2) and delimiting said housing seat (5) in said direction (B) of relative coupling in order to define damped arrest of said lock striker (2); and

a rigid protective shield (40) covering said second end (33) of said buffer (30) in an area of interaction with said engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2) for evenly distributing said impact of said lock striker (2) over said second end (33) wherein opposite lateral edges (41) of said shield (40) is securely retained on are folded around said second end (33) of said buffer (30) ~~by snap fitting opposite lateral edges (41) of thereby fixedly securing~~ said shield (40) around to said buffer (30).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 5, characterized in that said buffer (30) is made of an elastomeric material.

5. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 11, characterized in that said buffer (30) and said shield (40) are generally U-shaped in said area of interaction with said engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2).

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 5, characterized in that said shield (40) has, in said area of interaction with said engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2), a surface coating of ceramic material.

8. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 1, characterized in that said buffer (30) includes a projection (34) extending from said first end (31) disposed in a recess (17) formed in said bottom wall (12) of said housing seat (5) coupling said buffer (30) to said bottom wall (12).

9. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 8, characterized in that said projection (34) is defined by opposite lateral edges (35) converging with respect to one another toward said first end (31).

10. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 9, characterized in that said buffer (30) includes opposite lateral surfaces (32) bearing upon said side walls (13).

11. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 10, characterized in that said buffer (30) includes a slot (36) disposed between said first end (31) and said second end (33), said slot (36) extending transversely to said side walls (13).

12. (Currently amended) A lock (1) for a door of a motor vehicle comprising:

a closing mechanism (16) adapted for coupling with a lock striker (2) along a direction (B) of relative coupling;

a supporting body (4) of said closing mechanism (6) including an opening (5) for receiving a lock striker (2) therein, said opening (5) including a pair of opposing side walls (13) extending between an entry area (11) and an opposite bottom wall (12) orthogonal to said direction (B) of relative coupling;

an elastically compliant buffer (30) including a first end (31) coupled to said bottom wall (12) by a projection (34) extending from said first end (31) and having opposite lateral edges (35) converging with respect to one another toward said first end (31) and disposed in a recess (17) formed in said bottom wall (12), opposite lateral surfaces (32) bearing upon said side walls (13), a second end (33) having a concave surface for receiving an impact from an engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2) and delimiting said opening (5) in said direction (B) of relative coupling in order to define damped arrest of said lock striker (2), and a slot (36) disposed between said first end (31) and said second end (33) and extending transversely to said side walls (13); and

a rigid protective shield (40) covering said second end (33) of said buffer (30) in an area of interaction with said engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2) for evenly distributing said impact of said lock striker (2) over said second end (33) wherein opposite lateral edges (41) of said shield (40) is securely retained on are folded around said second end (33) of said buffer (30) ~~by snap fitting opposite lateral edges (41) of thereby fixedly securing said shield (40) around to~~ said buffer (30).

13. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 12, characterized in that said buffer (30) and said shield (40) are generally U-shaped in said area of interaction with said engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2).

14. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 13, characterized in that said shield (40) has a surface coating of ceramic material in said area of interaction with said engagement portion (3) of said lock striker (2).

15. (Previously presented) The lock according to Claim 14, characterized in that said buffer (30) is made of an elastomeric material.

16. (New) The lock according to Claim 1, characterized in that said shield (40) is fixedly secured to said buffer (30) by forcing said opposite lateral edges (41) of said shield (40) around said second end (33) of said buffer (30).